

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the present application. By this Amendment, Applicants cancel claims 26-31, 35-50 and 53. Claims 1-25, 32-34 and 54 will be pending in the application upon entry of this Amendment. The Amendment should be entered because it raises no new issues and/or reduces issues for Appeal.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication that claims 1-25, 32-34 and 54 are allowed. All other claims have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer to their further prosecution.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

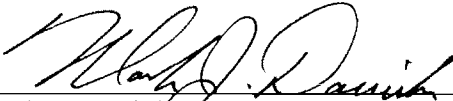
Claims 26-31, 35-41, 43-49 and 53 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,989,865 to Mahalingaiah ("Mahalingaiah") in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,626,988 to George ("George") and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,867,711 to Subramanian et al. ("Subramanian"). Claims 42 and 50 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mahalingaiah in view of Subramanian and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,418,489 to Mason et al. ("Mason"). These claims have been canceled, rendering the rejections thereof moot.

Conclusion

If any issues remain which the Examiner feels may be resolved through a telephone interview, she is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,
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Date: August 14, 2007



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